

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XG, PL

SUBJECT: VE DAY: POLISH POLITBIURO RESOLUTION

1. THE TEXT OF THE PZPR POLITBIURO'S RESOLUTION ON VICTORY DAY, ADOPTED FEBRUARY 18, OCCUPIED A FULL PAGE IN TRYBUNA LUDU ON MARCH 3. THE DOCUMENT OUTLINES PLANS FOR COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY OVER GERMAN FASCISM AND, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PROCLAIMS VICTORY DAY, MAY 9, A NATIONAL HOLIDAY. IT CALLS FOR AN EFFORT TO PUBLICIZE THE HISTORY OF THE WAR, ESPECIALLY THE SOVIET ROLE IN IT, AND ALSO FOR INDOCTRINATING YOUNG PEOPLE IN GREAT MORAL-

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IDEALISTIC VALUES OF POLAND'S STRUGGLE AGAINST THE NAZI INVADER.

2. THE RESOLUTION AVOIDS MENTION OF THE WESTERN ALLIES' ROLE IN THE VICTORY, EXCEPT FOR A REFERENCE TO THE ADMIRATION WON BY POLISH FORCES FIGHTING IN THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN, THE ATLANTIC, ITALY, AND ELSEWHERE. MOREOVER, THE RESOLUTION SUGGESTS LINKAGE BETWEEN PRE-WAR CAPITALISM AND FASCISM, ARGUING THAT FASCISM GREW OUT OF THE IMPERIALIST PHASE OF CAPITALISM AND EVEN ENJOYED "BOURGEOIS SUPPORT", NOT ONLY IN AXIS COUNTRIES. THE RESOLUTION ALSO DECLARES THAT AS A RESULT OF THE WAR, NOT ONLY WAS FASCISM DEFEATED BUT THE WEAKNESSES OF CAPITALISM WERE REVEALED AND ITS DEEP CONTRADICTIONS AGGRAVATED. FINALLY, THE RESOLUTION NOTES THAT FASCISM PERSISTS IN SOME FORMS TODAY AND ARGUES THAT A CLEAR ASSESSMENT OF ITS ESSENCE, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE, MUST STRIKE AT THE FOUNDATIONS OF CAPITALISM.

3. THE RESOLUTION TAKES PAINS TO CONTRAST THE FRG WITH THE GDR AND CALLS UPON THE FORMER TO PURSUE A POLICY COMPATIBLE WITH INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND BASED ON TERRITORIAL INVIOABILITY AND, PARTICULARLY, ON ADHERENCE TO THE TREATY WITH POLAND.

4. COMMENT: THE POLISH MEDIA RECENTLY HAVE COMPENSATED SOMEWHAT FOR THE CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE IN THE RESOLUTION OF ANY DISCUSSION OF THE WESTERN ALLIES. THE YALTA CONFERENCE IS THE SUBJECT OF TWO SERIES OF ARTICLES CURRENTLY APPEARING IN MAJOR NEWSPAPERS. THE FIRST, BY PROFESSOR WLODZIMIERZ KOWALSKI OF THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, IS BASED LARGELY UPON EXTENSIVE RESEARCH IN OUR EMBASSY LIBRARY BY KOWALSKI'S ASSISTANT AND IN THE MEMOIRS OF THE LEADERS OF THE WESTERN ALLIES; IT HAS BEEN APPEARING IN ZYCIE WARZAWY, WARSAW'S LEADING DAILY, FOR NEARLY AN MONTH. THE SECOND, BY LONGIN PASTUSIAK OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, IS RUNNING IN KULTURA. THESE ARTICLES CONCENTRATE ON THE POLISH ASPECT OF YALTA, EMPHASIZING FAVORABLY STALIN'S ROLE, BUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WESTERN LEADERS CANNOT BE ESCAPED. AN ACCOMPANYING THEME IN THESE ARTICLES AND IN EDITORIAL COMMENTARY WHICH APPEARED ON THE YALTA ANNIVERSARY IS THAT OF ALLIED SOLIDARITY, DESPITE DIFFERING INTERESTS, AS A PRECURSOR OF DETENTE.

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5. ADDITIONALLY, THE NORMANDY LANDING HAS BEEN TREATED IN A LENGTHY, ILLUSTRATED ARTICLE IN THE POPULAR WEEKLY PERSPEKTYWY, AND WAS THE SUBJECT OF A FAVORABLE TELEVISION DOCUMENTARY BROADCAST IN PRIME TIME LAST WEEKEND. ACTIONS ON THE WESTERN FRONT HAVE ALSO FIGURED IN A CURRENT TELEVISION SERIES ABOUT WORLD WAR II.
DAVIES

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